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UK threatens to block new EU treaty if demands not met

LONDON (AFP) - British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday threatened to block a new European Union treaty designed to save the euro from the debt crisis if London's demands are not met.

Cameron said Britain's huge financial sector and the single market would have to be protected if he were to sign up to a new EU-wide treaty aimed at resolving the crisis in the euro, which Britain does not use.

His threat increases the likelihood that France and Germany, who proposed rewriting the treaty Monday, will end up pushing for an agreement between just the 17 nations who use the euro and not all 27 EU states.

For the EU treaty to be reformed to allow greater euro-zone integration, all members of the bloc must agree.

Cameron's remarks are likely to anger under-fire euro-zone leaders as they scramble to come up with a convincing rescue plan after the Franco-German proposal was over-

shadowed by Standard & Poor's threat of a debt downgrade.

He said his main aim at a crunch summit of European leaders in Brussels this week was "to defend and promote British interests," although he recognised it was in London's interests for eurozone leaders to quickly resolve the crisis.

"If they choose to use the European treaty to do that, then obviously there will be British safeguards and British interests that I will want to insist on," he said. "I won't sign a treaty that doesn't have those safeguards in it, around things like, of course, the importance of the single market and financial services."

Central to British concerns will be protecting the City of London, one of the world's biggest financial hubs.

Britain has previously voiced opposition to a Franco-German plan for an EU-wide financial transaction tax, insisting any such measure must be applied worldwide to be effective.

Happy Community Conference opens with Keynote speaker Professor Dr. Robert Putnam

ORANJESTAD -- The official opening of the three-day Happy Community Conference took place in the Crystal Theater in Oranjestad yesterday morning with an address from Prime Minister Mike Eman and a presentation by the illustrious Professor Dr. Robert Putnam.

The proposed purpose of the conference is to examine means for Aruba to stimulate wider participation in its social and civic networks in a way that will generate greater productivity, health and happiness among its citizens; an initiative of the Prime Minister as part of his community-building program.



Professor Dr. Robert Putnam



Prime Minister Mike Eman with Prof Evelien Tonkens

nergies between corporations and communities.

Dr. Putnam is presently Peter & Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, having also served as Dean and a visiting professor and director of the Manchester Graduate Summer Program in Social Change, at the University Of Manchester (UK).

In 2003 he was awarded the Wilbur Cross Medal of Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for outstanding career achievement and in 2006, awarded the Johan Skytte Prize for the most valuable contribution to political science.

Continued on page 5

The three days of the conference combines local community activists and social architects with internationally renowned speakers in the field of Communitarianism, an ideology which emphasizes the connection between the individual and the community. The PM expressed his great satisfaction in being able to present such individuals as Dr. Putnam and Dr. Evelien H. Tonkens of the University of Amsterdam, the keynote speaker at this morning's sessions, which will focus on sy-

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Tourism Summit Speaker wets Aruba's appetite for his presentation!

ORANJESTAD -- On Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9 Aruba will host its first Tourism Summit here. One of the principal international speakers at this Summit will be Tilburg University Professor, Greg Richards. On Monday, Greg Richards met with the press during a government press conference.

Greg Richards shared with the press that he considers it exciting to be involved in the process of developing a new strategy for the tourism of Aruba, especially during this particular time with so many challenges in the tourism industry. These are times when all destinations are suffering the effects of the global economic crisis. And, all destinations must come up with new ideas to advance in the changing world markets.

According to Richards, it is obvious that the competition between the destinations is rapidly increasing. This is particularly so where certain products in certain markets are difficult to differentiate from each other. Hence, the sun, sand and sea destinations must reinvent themselves and add value and new dimensions to their product...and, Aruba is in that category along with a number of other destinations.

Professor Richards is con-

vinced that there is a pressing need to be creative and innovative in creating new tourism products. He believes that we must become creative as an island and use efficiently and effectively, the resources we have and that we should refuse to import ideas from other places.

Richards has also noted that, a tendency of tourists today is that they want to learn about the culture and what it means to be a local citizen at the destination they are visiting.

For this reason, according to Richards, it is important that Aruba wants to improve the quality of life for all her citizens. This undoubtedly will automatically improve the quality of the product that Aruba has to offer.

One of the areas of discussion in the Professor's speech during the Summit will be an in-depth look at the implications of a creative development of tourism, the relationship between creativity, the tourist, activities and other matters of potential satisfaction for tourists.

Greg Richards hopes to hold discussions with local stakeholders on the topic of which creative recourses Aruba has to offer that could be developed for tourism; and a specific modus operandi for doing this.

Aruba Recruitment Event a whopping success!

ORANJESTAD -- Looking back on "ARE," the Aruba Recruitment Event, held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, organizers Tristan Every and Quincy Sintiago are very satisfied. Sintiago and Every of the Flinx Company say the event was simply tremendous and that it surpassed their expectations.

The different booths of the Aruban businesses and companies were heavily visited by young people on the brink of completing their studies, or by those who have already received their diplomas and are in search of work in Aruba.

There was a lot of enthusiasm among those present at the event. They remarked that the new law which was recently passed in Aruba which offers students a 30% reduction on study loan repayment, under certain conditions, was a very positive element in the recruitment process. Those who visited the recruitment event appeared to be highly motivated individuals who know exactly what they want and who know how to go about preparing for their future.

Minister Edwin Abath stationed in the Netherlands, and Mike Eman, Prime Minister of Aruba were both in attendance at the event. Abath opened the event, while Eman gave an address to a packed audience. In his address, Mike Eman outlined how the Aruban eco-



nomy fares at this time....very positive with an outlook for even more advancement. Eman's presentation was followed with a number of excellent questions from an attentive audience.

The entire organization of the recruitment event was flawless. Yvonne Schaap of Aruba's Romar Trading said

she did not envision such a massive attendance and that she was surprised at the determination and motivation of the people who visited her booth.

Edsel Lopez of Price Waterhouse & Coopers was also impressed with how well the event was received and patronized.

Continued on page 4



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Poverty on the increase in the Netherlands

-- Some 60,000 households will slip below the poverty line by the end of next year, bringing the total number of poor families to 588,000, according to a new report by the national statistics office CBS and the government's socio-cultural policy unit SCP.

While single parent families and people living on benefits account for the bulk of poor households, an increasing number of people who work as freelancers are also now considered to be poor.

By the end of next year, one in nine children under the age

of 18 will be growing up in a family which has enough for its basic needs, but little else, the report says.

Freelancers now account for 50% of the working poor, compared with 41% 10 years ago. Six out of 10 of them own their own homes.

The two organisations have a different definition of poverty. The SCP uses a definition based on basic needs and minimal savings for recreation and 'participation in society' - about €1,000 a month for a single person or €1,880 for a couple with two children. The

CBS uses €940 and €1,770 as its cut-off points.

The current minimum wage for an adult is just over €1,400 a month.

Westerly storm looms in the Netherlands today

The Netherlands will probably be hit by a westerly storm with winds of up to 100 kph on the coast this afternoon, weather forecasters said yesterday.

While it will be windy for much of the day, the storm will be at full force in the afternoon and evening, the KNMI weather bureau said.

There is also a serious chance of a second severe storm on Friday, the Telegraaf said. And on Saturday, temperatures will dip to between 2 and 4 Celsius, with a light frost at night and snow and hail, the paper said.

However, it will be at least mid-December before there is any chance of prolonged cold weather.

Helping to support kids with a challenge Super donation for Mi Por from chaplain



The Mi Por Foundation received a wonderful surprise last Thursday afternoon when army chaplain Johan Trouwborst donated a whopping AWG. 1,500. The amount was the result of a month's worth of collection money. The chaplain said that the collection box is always passed around after the Sunday service; the money goes to charities. As Mr. Trouwborst happened to hear about Mi Por, he chose the lucky foundation for the month of November.

Mi Por is a foundation that helps support children with a physical limitation; many of them are struck by muscle di-

seases which disable them. Helping them and their families cope with all the hardships that it entails is one of the goals of Mi Por, which is Papiamentu for I Can. The foundation provides swimming lessons, which are very beneficial for these children, increased physiotherapy sessions and support at school, if needed.

Photo shows chaplain Trouwborst, dressed to the nines in his uniform, handing over the collection money to the board members and swimming instructors of the Mi Por foundation.



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Aruba Prime Minister meets Colombian Ambassador



Rodrigo Rivera Salazar, Colombian ambassador in Brussels had an encounter with Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman to discuss the latest developments and common interests they both share between Aruba and Colombia.

Prime Minister Eman shared information about his recent trip to Riohacha where he met with the indigenous Wayuu tribe that have a long

history of ties with the Aruban community. Obviously, this was intriguing information for the Colombian Ambassador.

Eman informed the Ambassador of his encounter with the petroleum sector in Colombia and of an eventual cooperation with Aruba's Valero Refinery. Colombia has the crude petroleum that Aruba can use. Eman hopes that soon we can begin a firm cooperation in this area.

An important item in the conversation was the active role that Aruba intends to take as a hub between the European Union and America. According to Mike Eman, "in Aruba we know the language, the culture and we share history with each other."

Eman indicated to the Ambassador that the main objective of his visit was to share Aruba's vision with the Ambassador. They also talked about safety and security, a matter of prime importance to the Colombian government.

Aruba Prime Minister Eman also shared Aruba's plans for alternative energy and what has already been done in this area on Aruba. Various other topics of interest, such as public health and sports were discussed during the conversation with Ambassador Rodrigo Rivera Salazar.

Both dignitaries agreed to keep in contact with each other to explore ways to strengthen the relationship even more between Aruba and Colombia.

Aruba Recruitment Event...

Continued from page 2

According to Edsel Lopez, the organization was very professional. Lopez also noted that it appears many people want to return to Aruba. He said that they had more than ten young people lined up for interviews and expected more to come along before the day was out. He too, is convinced that the 30% loan reduction law is contributing to the decision to decide on returning to Aruba.

Tristan Every reported that

there were about 400 participants at the event. The following day there were a number of interviews set up for those who came looking for work the day of the event...the day before. Many companies and organizations had scheduled these interviews with those who showed serious interest in applying for work with them. On the day of the recruitment, there was a wide range of job offers for job seekers...from

Architecture to the world of Finance!

The organizers are planning to repeat the event sometime soon, and hope that the Aruban companies that did not make it to this first event will not miss out on the second event.

Towards the end of the very successful day, a brass band of rhythmical music toured the booths while Tristan Every and Mike Eman closed the recruitment event.

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Pension Fund Tourism Sector Aruba healthy after 20 years!

ORANJESTAD -- The Pension Fund Tourism Sector Aruba (PFTSA) has few employees but a large family of 3000 members. The fund's administration is said to be completely transparent and responsible. Mrs. Sanaa Baroud is the general director of the organization which is celebrating

20 years of managing the pension of more than 3000 members.

PFTSA recently organized a seminar commemorating their 20th anniversary. The free seminar was especially for their clients and those interested in their services.

The vision and mission that led to the establishment of the PFTSA is very much alive and valid after 20 years! The primary objective of the fund is to provide pension programs to employees in the tourism sector. The PFTSA became a reality because of the concerns that its co-founders had for employees who diligently work in the tourism sector.

During their recently held seminar, Sanaa Baroud introduced the Board members of PFTSA. The Tourism sector pension organization today manages the pension of over 3000 participants who work for more than 40 different companies in the tourism business. During their seminar the focus was on the services that PFTSA provides, but also on the new law soon to be implemented regarding the General Obligatory Pension for Aruba's private sector employees.

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Happy Community Conference opens . . .

Continued from page 1

Dr. Putnam is author of a number of books, among them "Bowling Alone" which argues the United States has undergone an unprecedented collapse in civic, social, associational, and political life, which make up a concept he terms "social capital," since the 1960s, with serious negative consequences. An explanation of social capital and the findings of a number of studies regarding this was his topic for yesterday's address.

Professor Dr. Putnam explained that social capital encompasses a number of ideas and practices, including tangible social networks, such as tightly-knit communities and norms of reciprocity-doing good for friends and community, not because one expects a return, but because it is morally right. This can result in a return for the individual when needed, or be passed on to the community, thus initiating a ripple effect of beneficial behavior. Such networks have value for individuals and communities, and though it can be used for negative purposes, it normally has a positive aspect.

Social Capital is associated with more honest and efficient community life, which in-

cludes effective government, conscientious tax payers and law abiding citizens, low corruption and creditworthiness. It also contributes to improved educational outcomes for youth, and improved child welfare, physical and mental health, improved economic performance and generally, greater life satisfaction and well being. Studies have shown that a greater sense of connectedness with family, friends and community to have a direct positive effect on health and reduction of stress. "As contradictory as this may sound, you may actually reduce stress by going to some community meetings or participating in those of a service club," he told the amuse audience.

According to studies, Social Capital increased greatly in the U.S. from 1900 to 1965, except for The Great Depression years, particularly as it applies to volunteer associations and service clubs; however, it has fallen drastically from 1965 to 2010, dropping below the worst years of the 1930's. Why? "Technological and social change has made earlier forms of Social Capital (such as service clubs, traditional

dinner parties and simple occasions of interacting as a group) somewhat "old-fashioned and obsolete."

Dr. Putnam concedes what a useful tool the Internet can be for loved ones to stay in touch over long distances, and social networks can be a viable method for interaction among friends, but he feels to interpret online friends as a replacement for traditional relationships as misguided. The concept of "social networks" existed long before the Internet; this coming generation mustn't be raised to think that it only applies to online communities, as this will only contribute to isolation. In point of fact, it is the personal networking aspects of our life that often results in obtaining a better job and economic position, which gives it a tangible as well as psychological value. Television is certainly a primary element in the breakdown of these networks, and the isolation it encourages, in his opinion; not so much the content as the practice of leaving behind community gatherings but to remain within the isolated environment of our homes.

This is, however, the challenge modern societies under-



Andrew Edgerton from Gallup with Aruban architect Rafi Kock

going rapid change, now face: how to foster new forms of civil society? Country and community leaders are faced with the challenge "to NOT revive the society of the 1950's, but to invent new forms of social capital and develop a new and more capacious sense of "we."

The opening day of the Happy Community Conference continued with practical presentations about Community Engagement and Empowerment with Nadia Dresser of the University of Aruba, Peta Anne Baker from the University of the West Indies and Prof. Jose Antonio Ruiz San Roman from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. After

lunch, Andrew Edgerton from Gallup addressed the gathering along with John Reinhardt of City Planning, IBM and from Aruba, Raffy Kock, Architect with the Infra Advisory Group and Daniel Tecklenborg from CEDE Aruba, which administers donations for the island foundations and assists worthwhile proposed community projects to obtain funding.

Today's sessions will continue at the Crystal Theater in Oranjestad, and the final day of Community Building and Positive and Proactive Communication will take place at the YMCA in San Nicolas tomorrow.

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

59 dead in Afghan shrine blasts on Shiite holy day

KABUL (AFP) - Twin blasts at Afghan shrines on the Shiite holy day of Ashura left at least 59 people dead yesterday, with most killed in a massive suicide attack in Kabul which ripped through a crowd of worshippers.

The attack in the capital, which killed 55 and wounded 134, plus a second in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, came the day after an international meeting in Germany on the future of Afghanistan following 10 years of war.

The Kabul blast was the deadliest strike on the capital in three years and President Hamid Karzai said it was the first time insurgents had struck on such an important religious day.

It erupted at the entrance to a riverside shrine in the city center, where hundreds of singing Shiite Muslims had gathered to mark Ashura along with men whipping their bare backs as part of the traditional mourning ritual.

Men and women at the scene sobbed as they surveyed the aftermath and screamed slogans denouncing Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

The Taliban denied responsibility for the "inhumane" attacks in Kabul and Mazar, blaming "the invading enemy" -- an apparent reference to the 140,000-strong foreign force in Afghanistan.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance

Force declined to address that claim directly but its commander, US General John Allen, condemned the blasts as "an attack against Islam itself."

Afghan interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi, meanwhile, directly blamed Taliban-led insurgents while confirming the death toll.

In an almost simultaneous blast to the one in Kabul, four people were killed in Mazar-i-Sharif near the northern city's landmark Blue Mosque.

The dead people were all Shiites, killed as they walked towards the mosque to carry out mourning rituals, said provincial governor's spokesman Munir Ahmad Farhad.

When the Sunni Taliban ruled in the 1990s before being ousted by a US-led invasion in 2001, minority Shiites suffered brutal persecution, but in recent years sectarian violence has been rare.

During the 10-day Ashura ceremonies, which peaked yesterday, Shiites beat themselves with knives and chains in religious fervour as they mark the seventh-century killing of a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

Shiites were effectively banned from marking Ashura in public under the Taliban.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who was due to arrive in London late yesterday for talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron, cancelled his UK visit to return home after the deadly attacks.

Clinton urges end to discrimination against gays worldwide

GENEVA (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday urged an end to discrimination worldwide against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals (LGBT), and announced a fund to advance their cause.

In an impassioned speech at UN offices in Geneva, Clinton said Washington has committed \$3.0 million to start a Global Equality Fund that will support civil society organisations working for LGBT rights worldwide.

The announcement came as US President Barack Obama directed government agencies to fight against the criminalisation of LGBT activity abroad and to combat discrimination, homophobia and intolerance.

Clinton said the Global Equality Fund will help civil society organisations "so they can target their advocacy, learn



how to use the law as a tool, manage their budgets and train their staff, and forge partnerships with women's organisations, and other human rights groups."

She said LGBT rights were universal human rights.

President Obama meanwhile directed agencies involved with foreign aid and development to engage gov-

ernments and civil society groups abroad to "build respect for the human rights of LGBT persons."

He also directed swift and meaningful action to respond to human rights abuses against LGBT people perpetrated by foreign governments and required all agencies to produce an annual report on progress towards all the initiatives.

Honduras journalist slain, 17th in past two years

TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - Honduran journalist Luz Marina Paz was shot dead by gunmen yesterday along with a mechanic traveling with her, police said, in the latest in a series of attacks targeting news media.

She was killed in an attack outside the capital and became the 17th journalist killed in the Central American nation since a 2009 coup. She had worked for Radio Globo, linked to ousted president Manuel Zelaya, before joining the Cadena Hondurena de Noticias or CHN broadcaster.

Last year, 11 journalists were killed in the country -- one of the most violent in the region -- and where public safety has deteriorated since the June 29, 2009 military-backed coup.

Honduras has become a transit point for cocaine from

South America heading into the United States. Drug gangs are better armed than the police, and have cash to bribe law enforcement and politicians.

By the end of 2011 Honduras is likely to have the highest murder rate in the world -- 86 per 100,000 inhabitants, according to the Violence Observatory in Tegucigalpa, a UN-backed monitor. On average there have been 20 violent

deaths a day in 2011, 85 percent of them caused by shootings.

A 2010 report by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) found "an alarming pattern of impunity" in Honduras as shown by the "inability or unwillingness" of authorities "to take obvious steps to investigate the crimes and arrest the perpetrators."

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ICC seek urgent answers from Libya over Kadhafi son



Seif al-Islam

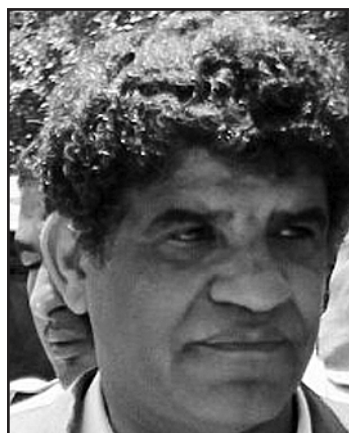
THE HAGUE (AFP) - International Criminal Court judges called on Libya's new leaders yesterday to inform them as a matter of urgency if and when they intend to hand over Moamer Kadhafi's captured son Seif al-Islam.

The Hague-based chamber said it was seeking from Libyan authorities "on an urgent basis" information on a number of issues including whether and when they "intend to surrender Seif al-Islam Kadhafi to the court".

The court also said in a statement that it wanted to know whether Seif was arrested "on account of the court's warrant" and whether information that Kadhafi's one-time heir-apparent was "being held incommunicado" was true.

Seif, who was arrested on November 19 almost a month to the day after his father was captured and killed, is being held in the southern Libyan town of Zintan, officials from the National Transitional Council have said.

The court said it was also inquiring whether an expert could be mandated to examine Seif "in order to assess his physical and mental state" and whether the ICC registrar or a



Abdullah al-Senussi

representative could meet him.

The ICC issued a warrant in June for Seif on charges of crimes against humanity over the Libyan conflict, but after his capture the NTC said it wanted to try him on Libyan soil.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said earlier that Seif's trial could be held in Libya under the auspices of the court.

He also proposed two other options: Libya asking the ICC to decide whether a Libyan court could prosecute Seif, or Libyan courts trying Seif for other crimes for which he is wanted in Libya, with the ICC prosecuting him in The Hague on a separate charge of crimes against humanity.

The ICC's mandate says it can only prosecute those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes if a state's national courts are unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute them.

Seif and Kadhafi's spymaster Abdullah al-Senussi are wanted by the court on charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and persecution, while quashing the anti-Kadhafi uprising.

China's Hu urges navy to prepare for combat

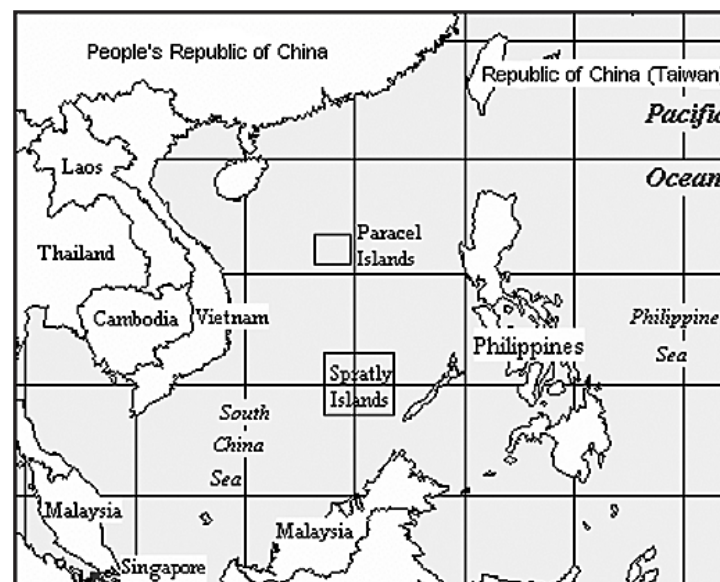
BEIJING (AFP) - Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday urged the navy to prepare for military combat amid growing regional tensions over maritime disputes and a US campaign to assert itself as a Pacific power.

The navy should "accelerate its transformation and modernisation in a sturdy way, and make extended preparations for military combat in order to make greater contributions to safeguard national security," he said.

Addressing the powerful Central Military Commission, Hu said: "Our work must closely encircle the main theme of national defence and military building."

His remarks, which were posted on a statement on a government website, come amid growing US and regional concerns over China's naval ambitions, particularly in the South China Sea.

China claims all of the mar-



itime area, as does Taiwan, while four Southeast Asian countries declare ownership of parts of it, with Vietnam and the Philippines accusing Chinese forces of increasing aggression there.

In a translation of Hu's comments, the official Xinhua

news agency quoted the president as saying China's navy should "make extended preparations for warfare."

But the Pentagon yesterday downplayed Hu's speech, saying that Beijing had the right to develop its military, although it should do so transparently.

Peru's ailing Fujimori should be pardoned, says daughter

LIMA (AFP) - The time has come to pardon Peru's ailing disgraced former president Alberto Fujimori, his daughter and political heir said yesterday.

"The health of my father is getting worse every day," Keiko Fujimori, a rightwing lawmaker who was defeated in a presidential runoff vote in April, told the TV channel Frecuencia Latina.

"A medical report clearly indicates that my father is suffering from severe cyclical depression, that he has various intestinal and stomach problems," she added. "I think the time has come to seek a pardon."

The elder Fujimori, who is serving a 25-year sentence for his role in crimes commit-

ted by an army death squad during his time in office, has had cancerous lesions on his tongue for years.

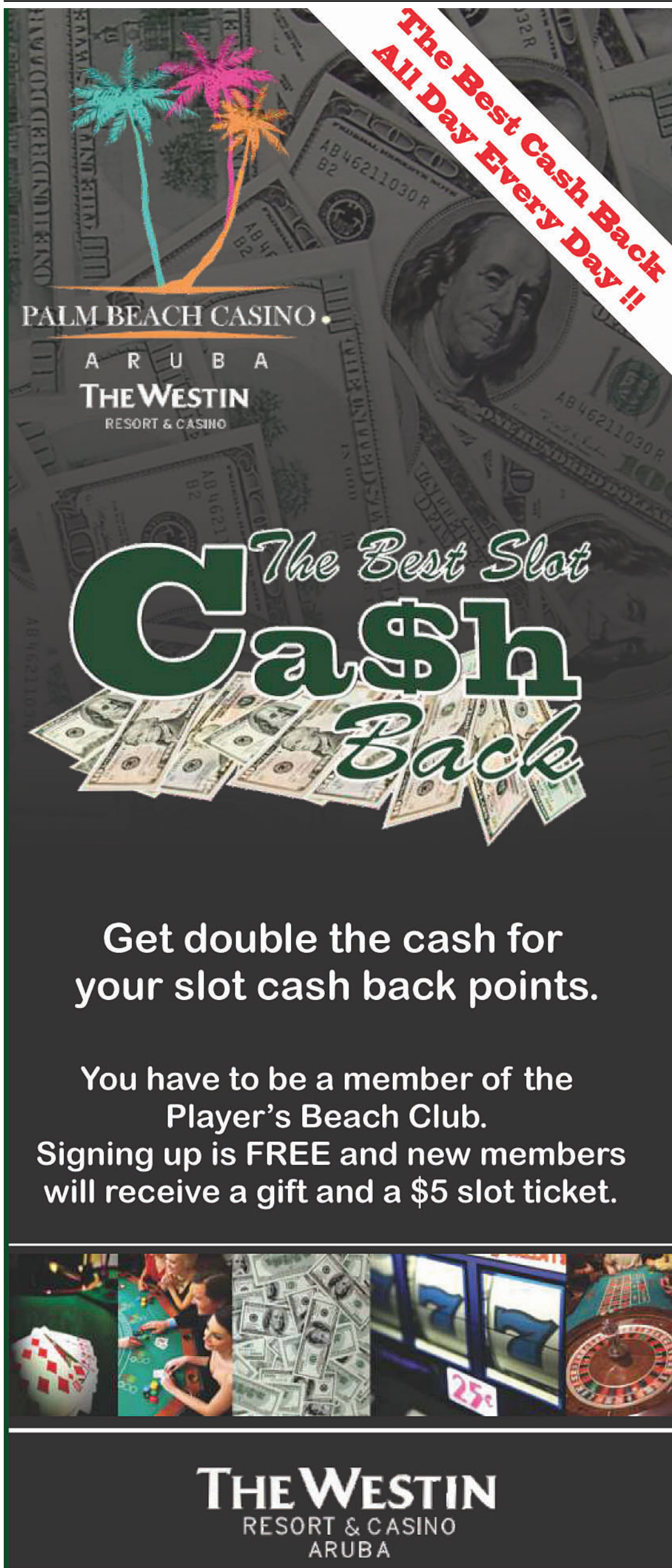
Detractors maintain that his illness is being exaggerated as a ploy so he can get out of prison and flee the country.

An October report co-authored by eight doctors ap-

pointed by the health ministry described Fujimori as "chronically ill elderly person."

The report said there was a high risk of his cancer resurging, after it has already been operated on four times, as well as the presence of a cyst on his pancreas, high blood pressure, and depression.

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Health & Living

Vaccine against Ebola works in mice: US study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US researchers said this week they have made progress toward an experimental vaccine against the deadly Ebola virus that is 80 percent effective in mice.

Ebola is a rare but notorious African virus and feared future weapon of bioterrorism because it usually kills its victims by overwhelming the immune system, causing multiple organ failure and bleeding to death.

Thirty-five years after Ebola first emerged, there is still no vaccine for human protection because none of the candidates were able to survive in long-term storage as part of a national stockpile to be kept in case of use in an attack.

But scientists in Arizona reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on Monday that they have created a vaccine that fuses an antibody with tobacco plants, potentially yielding a more stable vaccine.

They took part of a protein

from the surface of the virus, melded it to an antibody that recognizes the viral protein and produced the vaccine in tobacco plants.

The plant-derived immune complex was then injected into the mice along with another immune boosting chemical called PIC.

Eight in 10 pre-treated mice survived a subsequent Ebola infection. All mice who did not receive the vaccine before being infected with Ebola died.

More research is needed to determine if the vaccine would be safe and effective in people.

According to the UN's World Health Organization (WHO), about 1,850 cases of Ebola, with some 1,200 deaths, have occurred since 1976.

The virus has a natural reservoir in several species of the African fruit bat. Gorillas and other non-human primates are also susceptible to the disease.

British women offered free contraception pill at Christmas

LONDON (AFP) - British women are being offered free supplies of the emergency "morning-after" contraceptive pill over the Christmas and New Year holidays, the country's leading abortion agency said Tuesday.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) said it saw more women with unplanned pregnancies in January than any other time, and hoped the project would reduce numbers.

In its online campaign, BPAS references increased festivity at this time of year as one cause, but also warns that pharmacy closures due to the holidays often made it harder to get hold of emergency contraception.

The new service allows women to request the morning-after pill in advance and, following a 15-minute telephone consultation with a nurse, receive a pack that also includes condoms and "advice literature".

"We know women often do not take the morning-after pill after unprotected sex," said Ann Furedi, chief executive of BPAS.

"They may not think their

risk of pregnancy is high and the cost (about £25, 29 euros, \$39), inconvenience or embarrassment of obtaining it may put them off.

"We hope being able to access it in advance over the phone for free will encourage more women to have one at home, just in case."

The morning-after pill can be taken up to 72 hours after a woman has had sex, although it is most effective if taken within 12 hours.

The anti-abortion charity Life condemned the service, saying it encouraged risky sexual behaviour.

"If a woman has the morning-after pill at home 'just in case' she may be more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour than she would normally -- particularly over the festive period with the associated increase in alcohol consumption," a spokeswoman said.

Department of Health figures show 189,574 abortions were carried out in England and Wales in 2010, 0.3 percent more than in 2009 and eight percent more than in 2000. Some 91 percent were carried out at under 13 weeks.

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India to ban 'offensive' Internet material

NEW DELHI (AFP)-India on Tuesday vowed to ban offensive material from the Internet after Facebook, Google and other major firms told the government they were unable to screen content before it was posted.

Communications Minister Kapil Sibal said talks with the Internet giants had failed to come up with a solution following complaints that he had lodged three months ago over "unacceptable" images.

"My aim is that insulting material never gets uploaded," Sibal told reporters in New Delhi. "We will evolve guidelines and mechanisms to deal with the issue."

Sibal said the government supported free speech and was against censorship but that some material on the Internet was so offensive that no one would find it acceptable.

He said he had shown some of the worst images to

the Internet companies, who had said they could not control all distribution.

"Three months back we saw that Google, Yahoo!, Facebook had images which could be an insult to Indians, especially religious-minded people," Sibal said.

Sibal said the firms had shown that their "intention was not to cooperate" and that they had explained they were only "platforms" on which people could display material.

He added that "sometimes when asked for data in respect to terrorists... there is hesitation (by Internet companies) to provide that data."

Facebook, which has 25 million users in India, released a statement saying it "recognised the government's interest in minimising the amount of abusive content" online and would continue to communicate over the issue.

Sci-Tech

Chinese go online to vent anger over pollution

BEIJING (AFP) - Millions of Chinese went online Tuesday to vent their anger over the thick smog that has blanketed Beijing in recent days, raising health fears and causing hundreds of flights to be cancelled.

Sales of face masks were reported to have surged as residents of China's heavily polluted capital sought to protect themselves from the air, which US embassy figures ranked as "very unhealthy".

Beijing's main airport cancelled hundreds of flight due to the poor visibility on Sunday and Monday, angering passengers at the world's second-busiest airport.

Users of Sina's weibo -- one of China's most popular microblogs -- expressed frustration at travel delays, with one saying it had taken him 24 hours, instead of four, to travel to Beijing from the southern city of Shenzhen.

"I'm exhausted. All of this was because of the thick smog," wrote Hu Yueyue in one of 4.4 million comments about pollution posted to Sina on Tuesday.

Competitor Tencent's weibo users' posts on pollution generated a whopping 68 million comments, boosting the topic to the fourth most-discussed of the day.



Some linked the toxic air to other hot issues of the day, such as a manhunt for the bomber of a bank in central China, or a yoghurt drink made by Coca Cola that was deliberately poisoned, killing one.

"The bank explosion in Wuhan, poisoned milk in Changchun, serious air pollution in Beijing... Can we live or not? Or is it that I pay too much attention to the dark side of society?" web user Gaiyong wrote.

"The reality has crushed my confidence. No wonder rich people all go to foreign coun-

tries to avoid disasters."

One online retailer reported selling 100 face masks fitted with air filters to a single customer in Beijing, according to the official Global Times daily.

Taobao.com, China's biggest online retailer, sold 30,000 masks on Sunday, when the US embassy in Beijing rated the air as "hazardous", the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

The US embassy conducts its own air quality measurements, measuring the finest particles, which experts say make up much of Beijing's pollution.

The official government figures are based on measurements of larger particles and often give a better assessment of air quality, leading to accusations the authorities are downplaying how serious the pollution is.

On Tuesday, the US embassy pollution index called the air "very unhealthy" while Xinhua's measurement said it was "slightly polluted."

Fukushima radioactive water 'leaked to Pacific

TOKYO (AFP) - Highly radioactive waste water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant has leaked to the Pacific, its operator said Tuesday, promising to prevent similar incidents.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said it believes 150 litres (40 US gallons) of waste water including highly harmful strontium, linked with bone cancers, has spread to the open ocean.

The announcement came a day after TEPCO said it found 45 tonnes of waste water pooled around the leaky water-treatment system at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

TEPCO said Monday it believed about 300 litres of waste water have escaped and run into a nearby gutter that leads to the ocean before crews could contain the leaks.

The water leaked to the sea is believed to contain 26 billion becquerels of radioactive materials, TEPCO said.

The company said, however, human health should not be affected even after eating sea food caught in the area for every day for one year.

"We again sincerely apologise for causing worries and

troubles to the area residents as well as the society at large for releasing water containing radioactive materials," TEPCO said in a statement.

In the weeks after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami hit the plant, TEPCO dumped 10,000 tonnes of lower-level radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean.

Subsequent reports have found the radiation was widely dispersed and did not pose a threat to human or animal life.

Fukushima's makeshift water-treatment system has been hit by a series of problems which forced officials to temporarily shut it down.

But TEPCO said the leak would not hinder its plans to bring the reactors to a state of cold shutdown by the end of the year.

Large areas around the Fukushima plant have been left contaminated with radiation after a series of meltdowns in the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

The accident has not directly claimed any lives, but has left tens of thousands of people displaced and rendered whole towns uninhabitable, possibly for decades.

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ACROSS

1. Jam a toe
5. Lincoln et al.
9. Music's _____ Fighters
12. Plane prefix, to a Brit
13. Lox type
14. Trouble
15. Sophisticated fellow
18. Part of RAF
19. Long time
20. Anesthetic of the past
24. Codfish
26. Take a drink
27. Lost
29. Dixie Chicks hit
35. Newspaper paragraph

DOWN

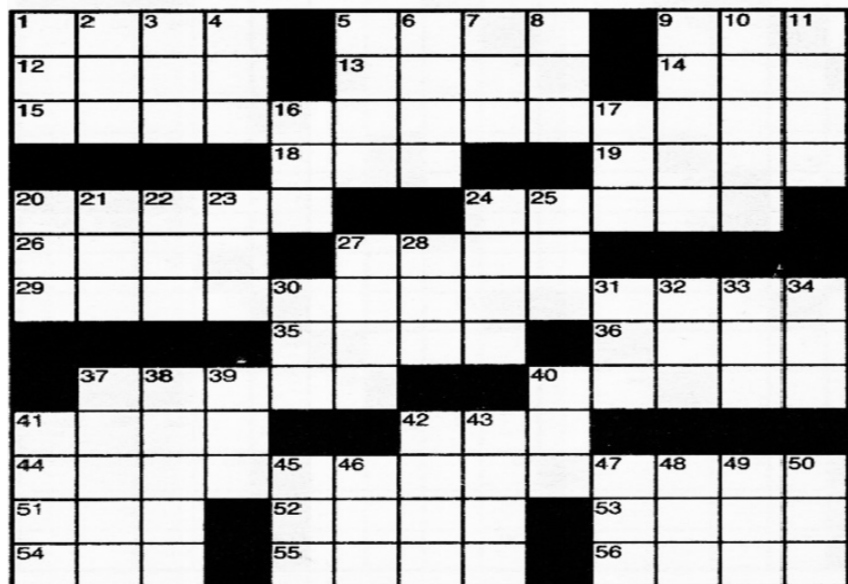
36. "84 Charing Cross _____"
37. Yummy
40. French river
41. Othello's antagonist
42. _____ Speed-wagon
44. Huxley opus
51. Take nourishment
52. Polka instrument
53. Ascend
54. "Prufrock" poet's monogram
55. Dorothy's ex on "The Golden Girls"
56. Members of a clowder

DOWN

1. "Casablanca" pianist
2. Souchong or oolong
3. Keats subject
4. Ghostly utterance
5. Non-supportive person
6. 1975 Nobel Aage
7. Pre-holiday night
8. Espied
9. Wells's partner
10. Silenced a squeak
11. Caddie's kin
16. Distant

DOWN

17. Skiff accessory
20. It is, to Brutus
21. Seesaw need
22. Like a way-out daddy-o
23. "Where id was, there shall _____ be" (Freud)
24. Appear to be
25. Crow's sound
27. ABA member
28. "____ Loves You"
30. Healthy
31. El Dorado lode
32. Computer memory abbr.
33. Breakout
34. 34th monogram
37. Fitzgerald and Lipinski
38. Variegated stone
39. Brit. pound
40. Piglet's mother
41. Skeptical retort
42. Singer-actress McEntire
43. McGregor of "Velvet Goldmine"
45. SAT org.
46. Cashew, e.g.
47. Tolkien goblin
48. Little inlet
49. D-Day craft
50. _____ Plains

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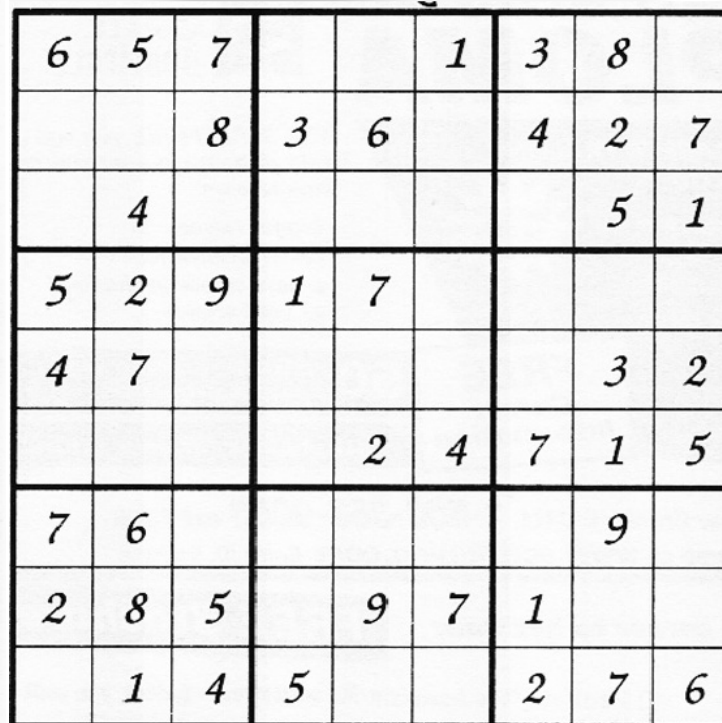
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9	L	7	8	E	S	T	I	6
E	T	I	L	6	9	S	8	7
8	6	S	7	1	T	E	9	L
S	I	L	T	7	6	9	E	8
7	E	6	9	S	8	1	L	T
T	9	8	E	L	1	6	7	S
1	S	9	6	8	L	7	T	E
L	7	T	S	9	E	8	6	1
6	8	E	1	T	7	L	S	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

The Netherlands' credit rating under threat



French President Nicolas Sarkozy smiles as he greets German Chancellor Angela Merkel prior to their meeting Monday in Paris on a plan to save the Eurozone

THE HAGUE -- Credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's has issued a warning that the six eurozone countries with a triple-A rating - including the Netherlands - face being downgraded within three months.

France, Germany, Austria, Finland and Luxemburg are also in line for a downgrade, says the agency, which calculates how able countries and companies are to pay their debts. In addition, S&P has nine other eurozone countries in its sights.

The warning shows that the eurozone debt crisis could

spread to all the countries involved, Dutch finance minister Jan Kees de Jager said in a reaction. That is why the Netherlands 'has made concrete proposals which will help solve the crisis', he said.

It is a good thing the government is sticking to its policy of bringing the Dutch budget under control, said De Jager.

Standard & Poor's on Monday warned 15 eurozone members of possible credit downgrades as economic conditions worsen and the region's leadership remains divided over how to tackle the sovereign debt crisis.

According to former finance minister Wouter Bos, who is giving evidence to a parliamentary inquiry into the 2008 credit crisis, the supervision of eurozone countries' budgets must be done by an independent authority such as the European Central Bank rather than politicians.

Shock warnings of possible debt downgrades for both the eurozone and its bailout fund shook EU leaders yesterday, turning up the pressure to find a solution to the crisis at a do-or-die summit this week.

The announcement by Standard & Poor's that it was putting the sovereign debt of almost all eurozone countries on review for a possible downgrade jolted European markets which had taken a turn for the better with a Franco-German plan to tighten budget rules in the currency union.

The move came as a bombshell particularly for Germany which had always seen its gold standard AAA debt rating as unassailable.

And a number of politicians saw it as a bid to deflect attention away from the United States' much bigger -- and potentially even more dangerous -- debt mountain.

But S&P immediately followed it up with another blow yesterday, warning it could also downgrade the triple-A rating of the eurozone debt rescue fund, the 440-billion-euro (\$590-billion) European Financial Stability Facility or EFSF.

The EFSF was set up in May last year to protect vulnerable eurozone nations after Greece was bailed out by the European Union and the IMF and has since been used to provide rescue loans to Ireland and Portugal.

With a triple-A rating, the EFSF is able to raise funds in the bond market with much lower interest rates than bailed out nations would get on their own.

Judge paves way for Lehman Brothers liquidation

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - A US judge yesterday approved plans to end Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy and move it toward liquidation, three years after the firm became a poster child for the global financial crisis.

Liquidators running what remains of the company said a US bankruptcy court in New York had approved a plan for the now infamous firm to exit Chapter 11 protection.

"This case has required compromise and common sense, diligence and determination, and the reconciliation of complex positions that at times seemed irreconcilable," said Bryan Marsal.

Although the firm collapsed

with ignominy in 2008, its full dissolution depends on settling creditors' claims worth around \$450 billion.

The judge's approval of a bankruptcy plan moves that process toward conclusion.

"Confirmation of this plan is a testament to the enormous efforts of the many stakeholders who recognized the value of an economic compromise plan and did yeoman's work to achieve it."

According to Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. the bankruptcy was "the largest and most complex in history," involving 7,000 legal entities in 40 countries, and 75 distinct court proceedings.



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Geithner to EU: IMF will play a role, but without U.S. aid

Many are looking to the 187-member International Monetary Fund to step in as the rescue vehicle in the euro zone. "Of course it has a role to play," U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in some noticeably short comments in a press conference in Frankfurt yesterday. "The IMF exists in some ways for this purpose, to help members meet financial needs," he said. However, he coupled this statement with the claim that reports that the U.S. Federal Reserve may contribute to a special IMF fund to aid the EU are "not accurate."

Either Geithner is suggesting that the IMF succeed in a bailout plan without the U.S. involvement, or he was simply practicing more discretion in his European tour this time around.

A plan for an IMF-aided euro zone rescue has two-pronged options, according to analysts. One prong involving a series of bilateral loans offered by national governments, central banks or by national treasuries, which would in turn



be offered with preferred creditor status to recipient nation-states in the euro zone.

The other prong is to tap the IMF's reserves with the "special drawing rights" privilege, which would probably need to be increased to meet the needs of euro zone nations. This amount may need to be increased by as much as 650 billion EUR (\$870 billion), according to analysts at Deutsche Bank. This would "cover up to three years of funding needs for Spain, Italy and Belgium and allowing for contingencies for bank recapitalization programs and additional support for countries already under a program," wrote Deutsche Bank analyst Francis Yared this week.



Current as of: 12/06/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.72	2.77	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	1.9242	1.9314	1.9394
Netherlands	EUR	2.3640	2.3855	2.4095
Sweden	SEK	0.2536	0.2608	0.2688
Denmark	DKK	0.3113	0.3185	0.3265
Norway	NOK	0.2995	0.3067	0.3147
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Kia Picanto and Peter Schreyer win Top Gear Magazine awards



Kia Motors Corporation is delighted that the all-new Kia Picanto and its Chief Design Officer, Peter Schreyer, have received honors in the BBC Top Gear Magazine annual awards announced today. The Picanto has been named 'Bargain of the Year' and Schreyer was selected as one of the 'Men of the Year' in the special awards issue, published on 30 November 2011.

The Picanto has been showered with awards since its launch in Europe during June this year and BBC Top Gear Magazine wrote of the car, "Finally, here's a Korean supermini that you might choose over, say, a Fiat 500."

"This is the Picanto, our 'Bargain Car of the Year', a fluorescent metaphor for South Korea's journey from

the havoc of wartime to economic enormity. Peter Schreyer – the man behind the team that created the Picanto's strong identity – was selected as one of the 'Men of the Year' for his clear design leadership at Kia.

The commendation said, "Good design is basically about creating products people want to buy. Peter Schreyer has presided over that process at Kia with impressive fortitude and skill."

Schreyer commented, I am hugely honored by BBC Top Gear's generosity both to me and, more importantly, to our Picanto. I have said before that it is incredibly rare for a designer to be given a clean sheet of paper when joining a company – but I think with this award, the bravery of that de-

cision has clearly paid off!

"Top Gear is famous around the world as probably the most independently minded magazine, staffed with car enthusiasts who are not afraid to say what they think – so this award truly excites every one of us within Kia," he concluded.

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dealer and the exclusive representative of the renown Kia Motors car models. Visit their

showroom at Caya Ernesto Petronia # 21 or call at tel. 582-1547 or 582-3747

Posthumous Winehouse album set for British number one

LONDON (AFP) - A posthumous album by British singer Amy Winehouse had sold almost 70,000 copies one day after it went on sale and was on course to reach number one, the Official Charts Company said yesterday.

"Lioness: Hidden Treasures" was put together following the 27-year-old's death in July and features unreleased tracks, alternate versions of existing classics as well as a couple of brand new compositions by Winehouse.

The 12-song album "is on

course to be this week's number one on the Official Album Chart," the company said.

"The album came out yesterday and it's number one -- the biggest selling album in the country," a spokesman for Island Records told AFP.

Some of the proceeds from the album will go towards the Amy Winehouse Foundation, set up in the singer's memory to help fund charities that provide help, support and care to young people.

Her father, Mitch Winehouse, tweeted that "my heart is sad but

bursting with pride" at news of the album's success -- although he admitted to reporters that he could not listen to it because the memories were too painful.

"I had to listen to it to approve it in the first place, the whole family did, but after that I can't listen to it. I don't want to bust into tears," he said.

Following her death, her second album "Back to Black" -- first released in 2006 -- became Britain's highest-selling album of the 21st century, before being toppled by Adele's Grammy-nominated "21" this week.

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond



When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike.

What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

Now they are serving you breakfast with an Aruban twist at bargain prizes.

Monica and Amarilis who have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving tradi-

tional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve



pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something from the local breakfast menu served on pan grand (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.

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SPORTS

Golf: McIlroy hoping to blow 'consistent' Donald off course

DUBAI (AFP) - World No2 Rory McIlroy says Luke Donald's deserved current status as the world's number one golfer won't stop him from pushing the Englishman to the brink in the European Tour's Race to Dubai.

Donald has been a picture of consistency this year, having finished outside the top-10 only three times on the European Tour in 2011, and is on the verge of winning the Order of Merit on both sides of the Atlantic.

Having secured the PGA Tour bragging rights, all he needs to do this week at the \$7.5 million Dubai World Championship is finish inside

the top-10 to clinch the European honour.

The equation is far simpler for McIlroy -- the only way he can stop Donald becoming Europe's No1 in Europe is by winning the tournament, which starts at the Earth course of Jumeirah Golf Estates from Thursday.

As if Donald's form was not enough of a challenge, the 22-year-old northern Irishman is fighting severe exhaustion after a whirlwind schedule that saw him play 12 straight weeks, and a mystery illness that caused his white blood cell count to drop.

McIlroy said: "For me, over the last 18 months Luke Don-

ald has just been so consistent. He's won five times in the last 18 months, and all big events, World Match Play, Wentworth, Scottish Open and obviously the Disney when he needed to.

McIlroy is hoping his fantastic win in Hong Kong last week, and his familiarity with Dubai and the Earth course will give him the necessary boost.

McIlroy, who finished third and fifth in his last two appearances at the Dubai World Championship, added: "It would be a great achievement if I do win the Race to Dubai.

Barca bid to extend continued from page 16

And despite losing in the semi-finals of the 2010 Champions League to Inter Milan, they bounced back to hand Manchester United a footballing lesson in this year's final in London.

However, this season there have been more question marks over Guardiola's side as they have stuttered so far away from home. While Barcelona have marched on relentlessly at the Nou Camp, they have

struggled on their travels such as in the 2-2 away to Athletic Bilbao and notably the 1-0 defeat against Getafe.

The emergence of a stronger Real Madrid, with coach Jose Mourinho in his second season, is also threatening Barca's dominance with their arch-rivals currently leading La Liga by three points.

But Guardiola is unconcerned.

"I like to point out that this is a normal situation and in the 112 years of the club's history it has often happened that you don't lead all the way from the start," he said.

"I won three leagues in the last week of the season and having been behind all year. You don't always win just because you have been ahead from the very start, you just need though to be waiting for your chance."



This combo of recent file pictures made on December 5, 2011 shows Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L), Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) and Barcelona's midfielder Xavi Hernandez. Holder Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Xavi were on December 2, 2011 named on the final three-man shortlist for the 2011 FIFA Ballon d'Or award, which will be presented at a ceremony in Zurich on January 9.


AFP PHOTO

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NBA: Chargers snap skid against reeling Jaguars



Wide receiver Vincent Brown #86 of the San Diego Chargers fails to make a catch as strong safety Dwight Lowery #25 of the Jacksonville Jaguars defends on Monday

JACKSONVILLE (AFP) - San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers threw for 294 yards and three touchdowns as the Chargers ended a six-game losing streak with a 38-14 NFL victory over Jacksonville on Monday.

Rivers, who leads the league in interceptions and turnovers, completed 22 of 28 passes - connecting with Vincent Brown, Vincent Jackson

and Malcom Floyd for touchdowns.

San Diego scored on five of their first six drives, many Jacksonville fans heading for the exits after Ryan Mathews ran 31 yards for a touchdown for the visitors in the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars were playing their first game since coach Jack Del Rio was sacked last week and replaced by defensive coordinator Mel Tucker on an interim basis.

In addition to sending Del Rio packing, owner Wayne Weaver announced he had agreed to sell the team to Illinois businessman Shahid Khan and gave general manager Gene Smith a three-year contract extension.

Despite the upheaval, it was a familiar story on the field for the Jaguars, whose defence has been struggling with injuries.

Jacksonville were without their three best cornerbacks -- Rashean Mathis, Derek Cox and Will Middleton -- and lost safety Dwight Lowery and defensive end John Chick to injury during the contest.

The Jaguars suffered a fourth straight defeat and were held to fewer than 20 points for the seventh straight game.

Meanwhile quarterback Michael Vick, who missed three weeks with broken ribs, practised with the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday and said he expects to play this weekend against the Miami Dolphins.

The Eagles need to win their final four games to avoid their first losing season in six years and only their second in 13 years behind head coach Andy Reid.



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Kukoo Kunuku

Football: Barca bid to extend record silver streak

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona look to build on their record medal haul under coach Pep Guardiola this month with the home-grown hero aiming to lead his side to a 13th trophy

when they play in the Club World Cup.

Guardiola has had an astonishing run of success at the helm of Barcelona in his three-and-a-half years in

charge which has seen the side dominate the European and Spanish game.

In the summer, victory in the European Super Cup over Porto saw Guardiola claim his

12th trophy and overtake the 11 won by Johan Cruyff in his eight years in charge from the late 1980s.

Barcelona, whose stars include Ballon D'Or nominees Xavi and Lionel Messi, the current holder, will join the competition in Japan at the semi-final stage, as will South American champions Santos of Brazil.

The Catalan side are aiming to repeat their achievement in 2009 when they came from behind in the final to beat Argentine side Estudiantes 2-1 in extra time.

That win crowned an amazing year for Barcelona when they won the six cups that were on offer although they can't quite match that achievement this year, after being beaten by Real Madrid in the King's Cup final.

But it would still be a remarkable year and demonstrate the domination of a side which pundits are touting as among the best of all time.

The appointment of Guardiola in the summer of 2008 was considered a gamble by the then president Joan Laporta and his board, with the previous coach Frank Rijkaard having been sacked after losing control of the dressing room.

With opinion polls of his leadership rock bottom and

having had to fight a vote of no-confidence, Laporta

needed a popular choice and he chose Guardiola -- a fans' favourite as part of Cruyff's 'Dream Team' in the 1990s.

Although inexperienced, Guardiola inherited the basis of a strong side even though they had petered out at the end of the 2007-08 season and where beaten to the title by Real Madrid.

Crucially Guardiola introduced discipline and put his faith in young players who he knew well, having been coach of the youth side, while he judged that high-profile players like Ronaldinho and Deco had lost their way.

In his first full season, Guardiola won the treble and along with the established stars former youth product Gerard Pique, who returned to the club from Manchester United, became an assured figure at the back.

In attack, youngster Pedro Rodriguez emerged as a lethal finisher and by the end of 2009 he had become the first player to score in all six club competitions in a single year.

In the two years since that Club World Cup victory, Barcelona have continued playing their famous brand of quick, passing football.

continues on page 14



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